GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1104
ANSWERED ON:24.10.2008
SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENT ON DOWRY
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana;Subbarayan Shri K.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given any judgement regarding after marriage gifts and in the recent past dowry; and

(b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b): The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Criminal Appeal No.1613 of 2005 decided on 5.1.2007, in the matter of Appasaheb and anr. Vs. State of Maharashtra has held that:
"Demand for money on account of some financial stringency or for meeting some urgent domestic expenses cannot be termed as a demand for dowry as the said word is normally understood. Dowry means any property or valuable security to be given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly at or before or any time after the marriage and in connection with the marriage of the said parties hence a correlation between the giving or taking of property or valuable security with the marriage of the parties is essential".
In view of the above, the National Commission for Women has proposed amendments to 'Dowry Prohibition Act,1961' which are under consideration.